



2020 Legislative & Administrative Platform

MN Association of Watershed Districts

PRIORITY A - TOP 2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The following top priorities have been set by the MAWD Board of Directors for lobbying efforts in 2020.

- 1. Increase the \$250,000 general fund levy limit.**
- 2. Secure a strong bonding allocation for flood hazard mitigation projects.**
- 3. Permit temporary storage of water on DNR land during major flood events.**

PRIORITY B - LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS WE SUPPORT (when led by others)

The following issues are supported by MAWD, but legislative efforts are being or will need to be led by others.

- Provide limited liability protection to certified commercial salt applicators.
- Clarify the responsibility of counties to finance public drainage system projects upon request of a watershed district and/or provide authorization to watershed districts to do their own general obligation bonding.
- Support efforts of the Minnesota River Congress to increase water storage in the MN River Basin.
- Obtain stable and reliable funding for an ongoing flood damage reduction program.

ISSUES TO HANDLE ADMINISTRATIVELY

MAWD will continue to work with state agencies and the Clean Water Council on the following initiatives.

- Work with the Clean Water Council to get a recommendation to the legislature in 2021 that would increase Clean Water Fund allocations for programs and projects identified in comprehensive watershed management plans such as those written under the One Watershed One Plan Program or MN Statute 103B.201 Metropolitan Surface Water Management Program.
- Allow artificial water courses that serve as public drainage systems to be classified as a Class 7 Limited Resource Value Water rather than a Class 2 Aquatic Life and Recreation Water when implementing the MN Pollution Control Agency's Tiered Aquatic Life Uses (TALU) standard.
- Continue to work with the DNR to make sure they do not unduly impede a drainage authority's ability to maintain and repair public drainage systems or re-establish drainage system records.
- Ensure watershed organizations are given opportunities by the MN Department of Health to provide input on stormwater reuse standards.

ISSUES TO WATCH AND PLAY DEFENSE (if needed)

MAWD will oppose legislation that negatively impacts the ability of watershed organizations to protect and preserve Minnesota's water resources. Currently, this includes the following bills already in the hopper:

- HF 1887 / SF 1766 – Watershed district provisions modified (a.k.a. "Developer's Bill of Rights")
- HF 2314 / SF 2372 – Rice Creek watershed district spending and reporting requirements